

STAFF REPORT

To: Public Safety Committee Date: November 18, 2013
From: Ken Putnam, PE, Transportation Department Director
Via: Mr. Gary Jackson, City Manager
Subject: Above Ground Fuel Storage Tank

Summary Statement: The consideration of a resolution to accept a 6,000 gallon above ground fuel storage tank.

Review: The National Guard Armory in Sylva, North Carolina has a used 6,000 gallon above ground fuel storage tank that is no longer needed and through the efforts of Mr. Jerry VeHaun, who is the Director of Emergency Services for Buncombe County, it is being offered to the City of Asheville as a gift.

Background: With the arrival of the new transit buses, an unintended consequence has occurred. The buses have smaller fuel tanks and as a result, they have to be refueled more often especially the buses that are used for both the daytime and nighttime shifts. The normal refueling time is between 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm. It is critical to be able to "top-off" the buses that come in after 9:00 pm so that they would be ready for the next day.

Public Works, Fleet Management, and First Transit staff went to Sylva to look at the tank and they verified that it is in excellent condition. Our challenge is to get it moved and setup at the transit garage complex since the tank weighs 59,000 pounds empty. Staff has received a quote from Southern Pump Company, LLC to accomplish this work at an estimated price of \$66,200.

In addition to resolving a refueling need for the transit buses, the tank would be available for use by other departments especially during emergency times or when the primary fueling station is closed for maintenance activities. The tank would help the city's "burn rate" during fuel conservative directives and it would probably gain another 7 to 10 days of independent emergency operation.

This action is supported by the Public Works Department, Fleet Management, the Asheville Fire Department, the Purchasing Department, and the Sustainability office.

Pros:

- The tank is a gift (no cost to the city).
- The tank will resolve an ongoing fueling issue with the transit buses.
- The tank will enable the city to gain an additional 7 to 10 days of independent emergency operation during fuel conservative directives.
- The tank will be available by all city departments.

Con:

- The tank has to be moved and setup at an estimated cost of \$66,200.

Fiscal Impact: Although the tank is a gift, it will cost about \$66,200 to move it and set it up at the transit garage complex.

Action Steps: Staff is requesting the Public Safety Committee to support the subject action and move it forward to City Council for review and approval.